[Mr. N. Kumaran].

My object in moving this motion is to elicit some more facts from Government as to the nature of the work done by the Protector of the Depressed Classes.

PRESIDENT: He was appointed only the other day, and he has not yet begun his regular work.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the nature of the work he is expected to do?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): To give facilities to the depressed classes and to safeguard their interests. The G. O. on the subject defining his duties has been placed in the Press Room and published in the *Gazette*.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 48 lakh be granted under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. I take it that the House sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 62 lakh under Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motions 329 and 330.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

329. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for binding charges by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

330. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10 580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Motion 331.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

331. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,580 for Public Library by Rs. 100.

Sir, the Public Library is certainly a very useful institution and Government have been spending a lot of money for its maintenance. In 1098, Rs. 11,830 seems to have been spent on this account. There was also a receipt of Rs. 3,980 in the same year, the net expenditure for 1098 being Rs. 7,890. Therefore it is clear that about two thirds of the expenditure is met from the general revenues. Now, you will find that in the arrangement provided in the Library for the convenience of the public there are certain defects. There is a members' room where

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all the latest papers, periodicals and books are arranged. There is another reading room where journals which are too old and some dailies two or three days late and some local papers are placed.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is the member aware that some dailies are placed in the general reading room on the very same day they are received?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): One or two. The *Hindu* seems to be there. But on one occasion I found that the *Hindu* was not in the general reading room, but in the members' room. So I had absolutely no chance of reading it because it was placed in the members' room where strangers are not admitted. I believe it is a dog-in-the-manger policy if the Government reserve all these papers in one room. For the subscription which the members are paying they may have the convenience of a well-furnished and snug room. But it is not necessary that all these papers and books should be placed in this room and that the public should not be permitted to go to that room.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are absolutely no books in that room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What I meant was that there are periodicals and papers. If a member wants a paper or a periodical it may be taken to him in the members' room and if it is so done a visitor like myself who comes to Trivandrum now and then can go and read the latest periodicals. I submit that the general tax-payer is also contributing towards the maintenance of this institution. It is with a view to remove all these defects that I have brought this motion.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The only grievance referred to by my friend Mr. Kumaran relates to the fact that most of the latest periodicals and newspapers are being kept in the members' room and that only one or two newspapers are placed in the—

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): And magazines.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): —in the general readers' room as soon as they are received. I am submitting that the admission to the reading room is absolutely free and that the average number of readers that attend the reading room for a month goes up to 2,500.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not dispute that point.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That leads up to something to which I am coming. There are 2,500 readers in the general reading room. It becomes necessary therefore to make some special arrangements as regards periodicals and newspapers that have to be placed in the members' room for the use of the members who pay a considerably large sum by way of subscription.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are they not entitled, for the subscription they pay, to take a number of books which the readers are not entitled to?

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are permitted to take a large number of books. That is one of their privileges. Another privilege the members are having is that they can have admission to the members' room to read the latest newspapers and periodicals. So far as the general public are concerned, their main privilege is to go to the readers' room and read the newspapers and periodicals placed there.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know what the practice elsewhere is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Practice where?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): In Madras and other places.

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have seen the practice in Madras and other places. There are certain free reading rooms where such a privilege is conferred upon all. But there are also reading rooms where it is not conferred.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Should not the privilege be conferred on the ordinary public?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The newspapers and journals are being transferred to the reading room.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): When they become stale?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The old issues are removed to the reading room.

PRESIDENT: Your difficulty can be removed only by subscribing for more copies of all papers.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want that.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The privileges of members cannot be curtailed.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Why not Mr. Kumaran become a member?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not propose to answer him. What is the harm in a member of the general public going to the place? A member can also go to the same place and make use of the newspapers and magazines.

PRESIDENT: They may not be available for the member if the public are allowed to make use of them. The total number of the general public who make use of them is very large. What is the total number of members in Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One hundred and seventy-six.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are there not non-resident members?

PRESIDENT: That figure almost wholly represents the residents in Trivandrum.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know how many members there are who are not resident in Trivandrum, but who are still members?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are a few. I have not got the exact number now.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Arts College*): Is Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar aware that there is no room in the present Library building which can be made use of as a common room for members as well as others?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Except the general reading room, I do not think there is any other room which may be used as a common room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Does he mean to say that there is no other room available?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No other room is available.

If only Mr. Kumaran had written to the Secretary or the clerk there, he would have got any newspaper he wanted.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want any special privilege because I am Mr. Kumaran.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In case the members are to have the privilege of reading the latest newspapers and the general public should also have the same, membership will have to be abolished altogether.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is it absolutely necessary for the successful working of the institution that there should be members and members' room and that sort of thing?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is a large question and I cannot answer it off-hand.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I quite agree with the Government member in what he has said. I do not think it is desirable that every Tom, Dick and Harry should rub shoulders with the respectable subscribers who go to the Public Library. Mr. Kumaran is of course an exception. Some distinction should be made between the subscribers and the general public. If dailies can be provided for the general reading room also, so much the better.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to make a suggestion to Mr. Kumaran, and in order to do so I am speaking. Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar's position is that a gentleman like Mr. Kumaran may, if he cared, get the privilege of reading even in the members' room. Mr. Kumaran speaks not for himself but for those

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

voiceless people who care to go to the Library and read a newspaper. So, the question has not been sufficiently answered. As a member of the Library Committee, I have some experience of the working of the Public Library. As there is such a large number of members, even the members sometimes find it inconvenient to get the latest newspapers, because three or four have to read the same newspaper at the same time. But, I think Mr. Kumaran's desire to throw open the reading room can be satisfied by a very easy contrivance. In the case of the best-read newspapers, instead of having a single copy, why not provide two copies each? If this Council comes to the conclusion that Mr. Kumaran's request is legitimate, an additional amount may be sanctioned without difficulty and two copies of the leading papers may be purchased instead of one copy. That is a suggestion which I beg to throw out to Mr. Kumaran.

PRESIDENT: That was what I said. The difficulty can be removed only by increasing the number of copies to be purchased.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I am sorry to observe that Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar missed the point of the motion. So far as Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar's statement goes, it is correct. We have got three varieties of people using the Public Library; there are the four-anna subscriber, the eight-anna subscriber and the member.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Is there not a fourth class—the general reader?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He has, I think, to obtain a ticket.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Some amount of money is being supplied by the general tax-payer for the purpose of the Library. It should not be exclusively devoted to the eight-anna subscriber, the four-anna subscriber or the member. That with the subscription as such the institution is not being supported is a fact. The Government have to allot some amount of money every year for maintaining the institution. If, by paying subscription, a person is allowed to have all the benefits and another person who does not pay should be entirely excluded,—

PRESIDENT: He is not excluded entirely.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): As regards the quantum of benefit, if the four-anna subscriber is to have a very large share of benefit and if a non-subscriber is to go away without any serious advantage from the library, naturally the question arises whether the system of working so far as the non-paying people are concerned may not be re-arranged.

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What is the large share of benefit that a four-anna subscriber receives?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He is entitled to take a book. He is entitled to read newspapers and magazines.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): So far as the reading of the newspapers and magazines is concerned, he is on a level with the ordinary public.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If it is so, it is good. But the benefit that is available to the non-paying section is all that I am concerned with. That is the point at which attention has not been rivetted by the spokesman on behalf of the Government. I am pretty jealous of the privilege of the members, because the members, among whom I include myself, pay pretty decently for the privileges they are enjoying. So far as the other question is concerned, the question is open to revision whether the casual reader may not also get more benefit in the general reading room of the Public Library. The suggestion of getting down two copies may also be considered. The question is whether the proportion of advantages as regards the paying and non-paying public is correctly fixed, in view of the share of general revenue devoted to the upkeep of the library.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, I am sorry that I am not satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar. It is not my intention in moving this motion that Government should in any way incur additional expenditure. I know of one or two dailies being placed in the general reading room also.

PRESIDENT: If you make it a condition that no additional expenditure should be incurred and at the same time they should be provided with dailies, the solution becomes rather difficult.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I would submit my point. If anybody goes there and asks for a magazine or a newspaper, he may be allowed to look into it.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I point out that the librarian's work is only up to 5 P. M. and that most members go only after 5 O'Clock?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Those people who go after 5 P. M. may not get this privilege. Supposing one particular gentleman wants to refer to a particular fact in a magazine, what is the remedy? Is he not paying two-thirds for the maintenance of the library, while the members and the subscribers contribute only one-third? Is he to go without any advantage? I consider it rather hard.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Kumaran if he is in favour of allowing children who are not able to pay their fees being admitted to the higher forms of vernacular schools?

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[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not quite follow my friend.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My question is only this. Mr. Kumaran has been saying that two-thirds of the amount has been contributed by the tax-payer and only one-third by the subscribers and the members. I am putting it that schools and colleges are maintained by the tax-payers' money. Is Mr. Kumaran in favour of allowing boys and girls being taught in Government schools on which the tax-payers' money is spent, without requiring those boys and girls to pay fees?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The question does not make any difference at all in my position.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, as I understand Mr. Kumaran, what he has been aiming at is to so extend the volume of reading material in the general reading room as to place the large number of periodicals and newspapers that are now received in the members' room there, thereby curtailing the privileges that are being enjoyed by the members in the members' room.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not want any one of their privileges to be curtailed; I only want the extension of privileges in other directions.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That involves the expenditure of additional money. If the House sanctions additional funds, that can be done. That is the only feasible solution that suggests itself to me.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Can you not arrange to distribute the papers and magazines by half and half?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If this is done, the member really does not gain any advantage by paying more. It does not appear to be a practical proposition.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 332 to 339.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

332. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,346 for Archaeology by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

333. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,815 for publication of Sanskrit Manuscripts by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

334. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,987 for publication of Malayalam Manuscripts.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

335. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,800 for Preservation of Oriental Literature by Rs. 100.

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MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

336. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,408 for establishment by Rs 1,120.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

337. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,540 for travelling allowances by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

338. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,950 for Registrar of Co operative Societies by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

339. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,600 for Economic Development Board.

PRESIDENT: I place before the House Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—for Rs. ·62 lakh. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XX—PUBLIC WORKS.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 28·25 lakhs under Demand XX—Public Works.

Motion 340.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

340. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

Motion 341.

MR N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

341. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,200 under Direction by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to refer to the necessity of reducing the expenses under establishment and also to the necessity of having a better supervision over the working of the Department. It was pointed out during the course of the general discussion that there was a good deal of complaint about the over-manning of the Department as well as about appointments generally and punishments meted out to the officers of the Department. The Chief Engineer had not the advantage of giving sufficient explanation for all the allegations then made about him. I wish to point out that the expenditure in the executive branch is out of proportion to the total grant of the department and that sufficient attention has not been paid to reduction in the percentage of the cost of the establishment as compared with the total grant. It is to make a reference to all these points that I have brought forward this motion and I hope the Chief Engineer will be able to give us his explanation on these.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I understand from Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai that he has brought this motion to invite my attention that a reduction under establishment is possible. This

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